GOOD NEWS FOR HOMEMAKERS

By Shirley W. Walton
Extension Agent

Coffee - Why So Expensive?

Consumers across the country are flenching when they check the prices of their favorite brand of coffee in the supermarket. The average price of ground coffee in November 1976 was $2.23 per pound. Some of the stores in the Washington, D.C. area, reported to be the highest in the country, are stating that the average retail price is $3.19 per pound. What a jump!

The story begins with the coffee bean. It's grown on trees, or bushes, which require some 3 to 5 years to produce commercial yields from seed-ling planting. Growers cannot readily alter annual output, except by crop management and the use or non-use of fertilizers, insecticides, and other imputs. In addition to the situations peculiar to the coffee crop, the general inflationary conditions that have affected practically all food production have added to the cost factor of coffee.

Coffee prices have see-sawed for a number of years. Below are some interesting prices to illustrate this point: (figures represent cost per pound)

July 1954 - $1.23
November 1970 - $0.96
November 1973 - $1.08
July 1975 - $1.25
March 1977 - ? and higher

One of the severe frost which struck principal Brazilian coffee growing regions on July 14-18, 1975. The frost killed most of the coffee trees in the state of Parana (in Brazil), severely damaged trees in Sao Paulo, and affected other coffee-producing areas. (Remember Brazil's seasons are opposite ours.) The bulk of Brazil's 1975-76 coffee crop was already safely harvested but the 1976-77 crop potential was reduced by 60 percent or more with a drop in exportable supplies.

U. S. consumers are drinking less coffee. This was proven fact before the sharp rise in prices. Statistics show that in 1947 coffee drinkers were consuming an average of 18 pounds annually. By 1974, per capita consumption was less than 13 pounds and showing a consistent downward trend.

What is the future of coffee prices? Wholesale prices have nearly doubled in the past 15 months and retail prices have soared out of sight. Will we, the U. S. coffee-drinkers, continue to pay more or drink less coffee?

Barbecue Chicken Supreme Sauce

Melt: ½ stick (¼ cup) margarine
Add: ¾ cup vinegar
¼ cup water
1 tbsp. brown sugar
1 tsp. chili powder
2 tsp. worc-stershire sauce
1 tsp. dry mustard
1 to 3 tbsp. tomato catsup
Salt and pepper to taste

Heat all ingredients together. Bring to a boil and boil gently for two (2) minutes. This makes enough sauce for two chickens, marinate at least 3-4 hours. (This can also be done overnight.) Cook in a 350 degree oven, covered for 45 minutes. Uncover and cook 15 minutes more or until the chicken is done. This is an excellent way to prepare chicken for two meals. It is a great-tasting leftover and can be rewarmed without affecting the delicious flavor.

Calorie saving hint - You can save a number of calories if you skin your chicken before pouring the barbecue sauce over it.

Appomattox Chapter, Longwood Alumni Association Held Executive Meeting

A meeting of the executive committee of the Appomattox Chapter, Longwood Alumni Association was held in the home of Mrs. Betsy Carter on February 21, 1977. Mrs. Carter called the meeting to order and many items of business were discussed.

On March 27, 1977, the present officers and officers-to-be are asked to attend the Spring Council Meeting at Longwood College.

The chapter's final meeting will be on April 30, 1977 - a Spring Luncheon at 12:30 at Longwood. At this time the scholarship will be presented. All alumni are encouraged to send $5.00 to Mrs. Linda Mays if you have not already donated.

Let's strive to have a large attendance at Founder's Day on April 23, 1977.

Con-Terra Meets

The Tri-Hi-Y and Hi-Y clubs of Rustburg High School were represented at our meeting recently. There were, Erin Johnston, Youth Governor for the Model General Assembly of Virginia, Matt Thompson and Kenny Hittz. Their program was very enlightening and enjoyable. Our club will be sponsoring one of the delegates from Rustburg High to the MGA in Richmond.

In our business meeting that followed, Mrs. Joseph Dutka a president, presided. We will be selling chances on an afghan, anyone interested contact a club member or call 993-2861.

Donations will be made to the following community activities, the Concord Rescue Squad, and the purchase of trophies for the Concord Basketball team (little).

The Alice Kyle District Meeting will be March 26 at the First Baptist Church in South Boston. Our blue ribbon winners from our Arts & Crafts Show will be judged along with the winners from our Arts & Crafts Show will be along with the winners from other clubs throughout the district. Please make plans to attend by contacting Mrs. Dutka.

Mrs. Clayton Stanley was hostess, assisted by Mrs. Otis Henderson in the social hour that followed.

Mrs. W. W. Wariner, Jr.
Secretary

Feeder Cattle Association Will Hold April 1 Sale

The Amherst Feeder Cattle Association will hold a Spring Feeder, Yearling and Holstein Calf Sale at the Amherst County Livestock Market, Amherst, Va. on April 1, 1977 at 2 p.m. The Holstein Steer Calf sale will follow immediately after the Feeder sale.

Nomination forms have been mailed to your local Extension Agent and will be distributed to the feeder cattle producers throughout the county. March 15 has been set as the deadline for returning nomination forms. All cattle consigned to this sale must meet the Virginia Feeder Cattle Assoc. requirements.

For further information, please contact your local Extension Agent or Mrs. Elizabeth S. Howell, Secretary of the Amherst Feeder Cattle Assoc. at 804-277-5907 or 804-946-7245.

Boy Scouts of Troop 546 are shown with one of four sledges built for competition in Yukon Gold Rush.

Local Boy Scouts Participate In 'Yukon Gold Rush'

On Saturday, February 5, fifteen scouts and two leaders from Troop 546 participated in the Yukon Gold Rush held at Riverside Park in Lynchburg. A total of 187 scouts from eleven troops in the Central District of the Blue Ridge Mountains Council participated.

In order to participate in the event each patrol spent several weeks building a sledge. The sledge was then loaded with all the equipment needed for the day's activities. The sledge was then pulled around a course of almost two miles with stops at seven stations for competition in scouting skills. The competitions were in fields such as first aid, physical fitness, map and compass work, firebuilding, campsite arrangement and rope work. Points were scored at each station according to the skills of the patrol. A "gold nugget" was awarded for each point earned. At the end of the day each patrol's nuggets were counted and a ribbon awarded. The total number of nuggets earned determined the color of the ribbon: Blue - first place; Red - second place; white - third place.

In addition, a score was given to each patrol for their exhibition of scouting spirit at each station.

The Flaming Arrow Patrol consisting of Kenneth Mayberry, Ronald Reed, Lynn Martin, Bentley Nash, and Patrol leader Sylvester Watkins earned a first place blue ribbon. The Cherokee Patrol consisting of Mike Mundy, Eric Moon, David O'Brien, Roy Wood, and Patrol Leader Mike Carmody earned a third place white ribbon. The Wolf Patrol consisting of Mark Wooten, DeWitt Goin, Larry Johnson, Kurt Greenbaum, and Patrol Leader David Totty earned a first place blue ribbon.

The Wolf Patrol also earned first place in the Scouting Spirit Competition. They were awarded a large red, white, and blue streamer.

Leaders attending were Danny Garrett, Scoutmaster, and Al Carmody, Committeeman.

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Witness Season Program Set For March 17th

a Witness Season Program will be held on March 17th at 6:30 p.m. at Appomattox Court House Presbyterian Church. There will be a covered dish supper followed by a program to be presented by a native of Africa who is a student at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond.

The public is cordially invited to attend:

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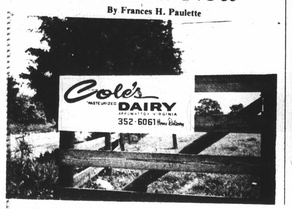
Then And Now

By Frances H. Paulette



For 29 years the sign directed people to Cole's Dairy; on February 26 the sign came down.

The Empty Meadow

Did you happen to run out of milk at breakfast? "Oh, well," you probably thought, "I can pick up a couple of quarts at Cole's Dairy this afternoon." Hold it lady!! There have been some changes made!

There have indeed been some changes made . . . for the first time in approximately 50 years, milk is not being bottled in Appomattox. Saturday, February 26th marked the end of operation for Cole's Dairy. Mr. Cole will continue to operate his farm, and I am sure that both Ann and John will continue their contributions to Appomattox in participation in civic and church endeavors.

In the article last week, we left John just after he had purchased the dairy in April of 1948 from the late B. G. Anderson.

* * *

John Cole lingered at the breakfast table for the first time in a long, long time. He had much for which to be thankful; Ann, his wife, the former Ann Van Weelde, originally of Norfolk, Virginia; handsome son, John R. Cole; two lovely daughters, Jean, now Mrs. Edward Fielding; Nancy, now Mrs. Clem O'Brien and of course, the four wonderful grandchildren! Now that he had sold the cows, he was looking forward to more time with them. Sitting there, his mind went back in time to that April in 1948.

There wasn't a man in Appomattox who was more proud than John Carrington Cole --- the new owner and operator of the local dairy. With the herd of seventeen cows, John bottled raw, whole milk just as Mr. Anderson had done. Business was good and John continued until the demand came for pasturized milk. It was in 1950 that John bought his first equipment for pasturizing.

Milk at this time was bottled in long-neck glass bottles. Since this was before the day of homogenized milk, the cream collected at the top of the bottle. Mr. Cole commented that the demand for cream was much greater in those days than now, and because of this the customer always looked to see the amount of cream collected at the top of the bottle before buying.

In 1952 John began to offer homogenized milk to his customers. This necessitated the purchasing of additional equipment --- a machine to break up the fat globules in the milk and leave it in suspension. According to Mr. Cole, it took about four years to get the customers used to the change in taste brought about by the pasturizing and homogenizing processes.

When Mr. Cole bought the dairy Mr. Anderson was serving approximately 40 to 50 customers and John has increased the number to 250. He also noted that in recent years more milk was picked up at the dairy than was distributed by the delivery truck.

During his twenty-nine years of operation, Mr. Cole, with the help of his brother, James, has employed high school boys to assist with the work at the dairy. Generally these young men worked early morning and the evening hours, which of course, was milking time. In speaking of the more than 100 boys who have worked with him, Mr. Cole said, "I have always tried to impress on the young men the importance of doing a job well, of respecting the rights of others, and above all, of being courteous."

Not only did John Cole have genuine concern for the boys in his employ, but Ann expressed her appreciation in a very tangible way. Over the long period of years Ann many times had the boys up to the house for a hot dinner or good old-fashioned country breakfast.

Being a dairyman meant getting up early . . . very early! I asked John just how early, and he replied, "I usually got up around 4 a.m. in order to begin milking by 4:30 or 4:45 a.m. Mr. Cole said it usually took one and one-half hours to do the milking; breakfast came next and then he would get back down to the barn for the bottling process.

When John bought the dairy the entire herd was composed of Guernsey cows. When he began, however, to sell homogenized milk, he began to get some Holstein cows. He remembered well the day the very first Holstein cow arrived --- the Guernsey cows chased the poor thing all day! They weren't about to have a stranger invide their herd. Needless to say, that Holstein didn't give much milk that day!

While the life of a dairyman represents much hard work and many long hours, it is not without its humorous moments. John chuckled to himself as he shared some of these instances with me.

Early one morning, as John and the boys going down to milk, turned on the lights, it was evident that an unusually large swarm of bell hornets had hatched out. By the thousands, they immediately settled on the lights. John and the boys quickly got the insect spray and began the battle. The enraged bell hornets made one last stand before falling prey to the spray. As they fell dead, they aimed at the cows, stinging them unmercifully!! Do I have to tell you? The cows held up their milk that morning!

Another day when milking time came John and the boys noticed that one cow was missing. They looked everywhere, but to no avail . . . she was nowhere to be found. Suddenly there was a noise from above. Looking up the stairs to the loft they spotted the cow, calmly looking down at them. Somehow, (they never figured out how) she had gotten up the steps to the loft and was eating hay. She wasn't very cooperative about coming down. They had to put bales of hay on the steps to fashion a kind of walkway whereby she could be coaxed down! John said that anything unusual, or upsetting would sometimes cause a cow to hold up her milk, even being put into a different stanchion could cause a problem. Had no idea they were such sensitive creatures did you?

While John was a hard worker, his wife, Ann, did her share too, to make the dairy a success. Having worked at the Dairy at Bayville Farm, Virginia Beach, Va., Ann had the experience that would make her ideal for the bookkeeping and business end of the dairy operations. During the entire 29 years of operations this was her responsibility. Add to that the churning of the sweet cream that was taken from the skimmed milk. On the average Ann made about 70 to 80 pounds a month.

Now that John has bid his cows "good-by" he will have more time for his hobby --- fishing. Knowing John, I am sure he will continue to be active in Liberty Baptist Church. Incidentally, he has attended there since childhood except for the period of time he resided in Norfolk. He is an active member of the Appomattox Lions Club and a former member of the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors. Having served in this capacity for twelve years, John is in a position to know our county, the needs & also the potentials Retirement? Absolutely not! Just a shifting of interests.

Thank you John for twenty-nine years of quality dairy products; we regret that we will no longer enjoy the service; we are happy however, that you and Ann will still be an important part of our community.

Senior Division Winners, 4-H Public Speaking were Cheryl Adams and Joe Ford shown receiving trophies from Mr. DeWitt Evans.

4-H Public Speaking Contest Held

The 1977 Appomattox 4-H Public Speaking program was held last Tuesday night at Appomattox Elementary School. A total of 48 speeches were presented by 4-H'ers who had qualified to participate in the county contest. Ribbons were awarded to all participants with trophies going to the top winners in each grade level. Mr. T. DeWitt Evans, representing Farmers National Bank presented trophies to the following winners: **4th Grade:** Leslie Ranson who spoke on "Proper Care and Training of a Pet" and Mike Roach whose topic was "A Home in Space." **5th Grade:** Tamara Hamlet who spoke on "The 39th President" and Mike McCoy whose topic was "The Life of John F. Kennedy." **6th Grade:** Laurie Cowan whose topic was "The Mouth of the South" and Charles Womack who spoke on "Who Really Discovered America".**7th and 8th Grades:** Jane Guill who spoke on "The Year '76" and Allen Smith whose topic was "The Plowmaker." **Senior Division:** Cheryl Adams who spoke on "America Means Freedom" and Joe Ford whose topic was "Who Are the American People."

Other speakers in each division and their topics were as follows: **4th Grade:** Sally Coleman "My Accidents"; Annette Miller "George Washington"; Charlene Scruggs "My Sister's Cat"; Phillip Bollinger "My Trip to Busch Gardens"; Bobby Hart "The 4-H's"; Rodney Shelton "My Dog".

5th Grade: Trudy Harris "Solar Eclipse"; Dana Moore "4-H"; Vivian Seay, "Virginia"; Debbie Walker "President Carter"; David Blanks "Unity vs. Division"; Bobby Carter "Coin Collecting"; Ricky Garrison "Big Foot"; Barry Hamlett "My Problem."

6th Grade: Suzan Eye "History's Great Horses"; Donna Layne "Animals that Broke the Law"; Terri Nash "Law vs. Drugs"; Patty Roach "The Bicycle"; Laura Walton "The Icy Fingers of Winter"; James Beaty "The Separating of New Friends"; Dean Jamerson "What I Like Best About 4-H"; Jeff Miller "Martin Luther King, Jr."; Blair Smith "The Virginia Giant".

7th and 8th Grades: Beverly Coleman "Lent"; Mary Hudson "Capitol Punishment"; Michelle Penn "Case Against Violence on TV", Susan Shorter "Where the Sunslight Never Shines"; Dana White "Don't Wait--Be Great"; Tommy Williams "Ozone".

Senior Girls: Polly Carter "America Is It Better or Worse"; Karen Johnson "Discrimination Against the Black Race"; Lisa Moore "The Metric System"; Rhonda Nash "Wake Up--All Ye People"; Tamara Nash "Moral Cancer-Pornography"; Susan Parris "Physical Fitness is Beautiful".

Senior Boys: David Caldwell "Child Abuse--A Threat"; Ernie Chenault "America and Its People"; Steve Cobb "Should Marijuana Be Legalized".

Announcers for the program were Laurie McLean and Willie Fleshman.

In 1977 a total of 285 4-H'ers took part in the Public Speaking Program.

4th Grade Winners, 4-H Public Speaking were Mike Roach and Leslie Ranson shown receiving trophies from Mr. DeWitt Evans of the Farmers National Bank.

7th and 8th Grade Winners, 4-H Public Speaking were Jane Guill and Allen Smith shown receiving trophies from Mr. DeWitt Evans of the Farmers National Bank.

5th Grade Winners, 4-H Public Speaking were Tamara Hamlett and Mike McCoy shown receiving trophies from Mr. DeWitt Evans.

6th Grade Winners, 4-H Public Speaking were Charles Womack and Laurie Cowan shown receiving trophies from Mr. DeWitt Evans of the Farmers National Bank.

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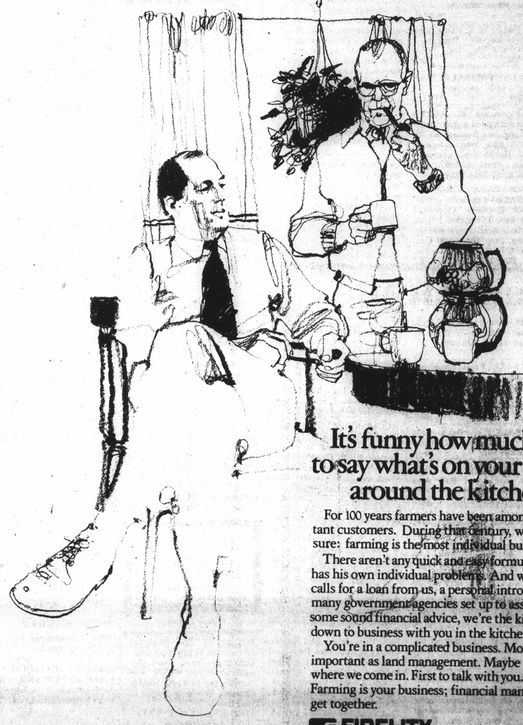
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